From: Brett Christoffersen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 2:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please retract your settlement offer.

Microsoft is the most destructive force in the computer world today, any product that competes with them is either bought (hotmail.com) or crushed (Netscape ... by giving away Microsoft's browser for free), or excluded from functionality (Quicktime (Apple) is now systematically excluded in favor of Microsoft's RealMedia ... the only way to get this functionality back is to download patches from Apple -- Microsoft and AOL's fight over instant messenger and Microsoft's competing product is another example). When Microsoft can't do these items, they try to set up "standards" that exclude their major competitor so that the Microsoft product is the "standard" that PC users "should use" ("J++" is a good example -- fortunately, Java by Sun Microsystems won this war ... it was simply too good to be supplanted by the inferior J++). When all else fails, they bribe their competition (\$100 Million to Apple ... \$135 Million more to Corel).

Microsoft's goal is to rule with an iron fist ALL of computing ... from the desktop (90% marketshare) to the mainframe (Windows NT) to gaming (the "XBox", which competes with Sony and Sega) to the internet (Explorer sets MSN.com as its default) and all the content on it (many Microsoft pages are written in html that is "Windows-only" ... try to access them with a Mac or Netscape and the page with either fail to load, or the browser will crash). Even their e-mail client (Outlook) sets its preferences in such a way that many older e-mail programs cannot read the e-mails that come from Outlook machines ... thus the receipient thinks (s)he must upgrade to "keep up".

Windows XP is even worse than previous versions at these tactics from what has been leaked to the net. It integrates everything now ... try to "uninstall" Explorer and the OS will collapse, try to use Netscape and you'll likely find it so hard that only the most experienced user can do it.

I am a loyal Macintosh user for years, but am well versed in PCs as I've used both platforms for years. I've seen the Mac innovate (the Graphic User Interface, the mouse, the 1.44 Meg floppy, Quicktime, back-side L2 caching, FireWire, parallel process computing for the home user, voice recognition, a nearly virus-impenitrable OS) and the PC destroy or mimmic.

Stop Microsoft (and Bill Gates) from destroying the world of

computing by making it "my way or no way". Go after him with the furver that we are currently going after Osama Bin Ladin.

Brett Christoffersen